

HONORS COLLEGE

Dean • *William Eamon*

Associate Dean and Director of National Scholarships • *Jason Ackleson*

Executive Secretary • *Valerie Torres*

Crimson Scholars Coordinator • *Yvonne Flores*

The Honors College is located in the Conroy Honors Center on the corner of University and Espina Avenues. Most honors classes are taught either in the Conroy Honors Center or in the honors residence center in Monagle Hall. (505) 646-2005

<http://honors.nmsu.edu/>

Mission of the Honors College

The mission of the New Mexico State University Honors College is to serve the citizens and state of New Mexico by providing an enriching environment for diverse, academically talented, and motivated students. The Honors College also seeks to create a community of scholars and mentors that fosters personal growth, critical thinking, leadership, independence, curiosity, and social responsibility. The college aspires to cultivate student potential to broadly understand and positively impact communities, organizations, and the larger world. The Honors College aims to focus campus attention on excellence in undergraduate education while strengthening New Mexico State University's reputation as the university of choice in New Mexico.

In support of this mission, the Honors College integrates the following objectives:

- Provide students with an interdisciplinary, intellectually challenging curriculum that integrates active and service-based learning;
- Promote university-wide undergraduate research opportunities, linking students with faculty mentors;
- Foster faculty enrichment and professional development;
- Encourage, mentor, and guide students seeking postgraduate scholarships and fellowships;
- Offer students opportunities for developing leadership skills;
- Create a residential community that combines learning inside and out side the classroom.

In small classes taught by master teachers, students in the Honors College engage in lively discussion and collaborative investigation of interdisciplinary topics. By taking honors courses, students may also work toward completing general education requirements* and disciplinary requirements in the major.

Students in the Honors College are 'dual citizens', i.e., they enroll in both the college(s) of their major/minor and the Honors College. The Honors College does not offer a degree; instead, it offers students the opportunity to graduate with various levels of honors distinction (described below).

** General Education requirements were under revision at the time of publication. Students must check with their academic adviser for current requirements and lists of specific courses that meet these requirements.*

The Honors Faculty

The Honors College faculty come from academic departments from throughout the university. Members of the faculty are chosen through a rigorous selection process and include many of New Mexico State University's most distinguished teachers and researchers.

Professors Alvarez, Catlett, Compton, Cooke, Eamon, Ellis, Falk, Gehrke, Giles, Goss, Howard, Lapid, Lawton, Linkin, Lodder, Manning, Mays, McNamara, Pengelley, Pollack, Rundell, Shearer, Swanson, Thompson, Trevathan, Zakahi

Associate Professors Alexander, Baker, Bond-Maupin, Bronstein, Butler, Cleveland, Ellis, Fouillade, Gregware, Hammond, Harvey, Holtzman, Lee, Lindsey, Lucero, Malamud, Scoccia, Serrano, Stanford, Wolf

Assistant Professors Ackleson, Amato, Battacharya, Horodowich, Ketelaar, Knapp, Rourke, Schirmer, Thorsrud

College Professors Fitzsimmons, Lampert, Lavender

Adjunct Professor Lewis

Emeritus Professors Denk, Liefeld, Loveland, McCoy, Staffeldt

Admission to the Honors College

Students are admitted to the Honors College by application. The following eligibility criteria apply:

Automatic Eligibility. Entering freshmen are automatically eligible for admission to the Honors College by meeting one of the following criteria:

- composite ACT score of 26 (or 1180 SAT score); or
- high school GPA of 3.75 or higher and an ACT of at least 24 (or 1100 SAT)

Admission by Petition. Entering freshmen who have an ACT score of at least 24 (or 1100 SAT score) or a high school GPA of 3.50 may submit a written petition for provisional admission to the Honors College using a form provided by the Honors College office upon the request of the student. A College Admissions Committee composed of the Director, Associate Director, and one member of the honors faculty review petitions and determine whether provisional admission shall be granted.

Transfer and Continuing Students. Transfer and continuing students who have earned at least 15 college credit hours will be eligible for admission to the college on the basis of a cumulative college GPA that meets eligibility requirements for continuing students (see below).

Eligibility for Continuing Membership. The eligibility criteria for continuing membership in the Honors College is the same as for continuing Crimson Scholars status:

- Fewer than 28 hours earned: 3.3 GPA
- More than 28 hours earned: 3.5 GPA

Appeals. Students who fall below the designated GPAs and lose their eligibility for Honors College status due to extraordinary circumstances may petition the College Admission Committee for readmission.

Enrolling in Honors Courses

Students do not have to be members of the Honors College to enroll in honors courses. Any eligible student may enroll. The eligibility requirements to enroll in lower-division honors courses are the same as those pertaining to admission to the college and continuance in the college. For upper-division courses, the requirement is a cumulative 3.2 GPA. Students lacking these requirements may petition the Honors College Director for permission on a case-by-case basis.

Graduating with University Honors

The Honors College offers two program options: graduation with University Honors and the Honors Certificate. Each option has separate eligibility requirements, benefits, and forms of recognition for the student. Almost all honors courses fulfill university general education requirements. To have these courses count toward one of these programs, a student must earn at least a B.

Any student who attains an overall GPA of 3.5-3.749 and who completes 15 credits of honors course work and the honors thesis is eligible to graduate with University Honors. Students who attain an average of 3.75 or better and who complete 15 credits of honors course work and the honors thesis are eligible to graduate with Distinction in University Honors. Transcripts will certify graduation with University Honors or Distinction in University Honors. Students who complete the requirements for graduation with either distinction receive recognition in the commencement program, a Certificate of Distinction, and a medallion upon graduation.

University Honors Requirements

Freshman-Sophomore Years

Three courses from the Honors Core (lower division) 9 cr.

Junior-Senior Years

Two 300- or 400-level Honors Certificate Program courses. 6 cr.

Thesis or Final Project. 3 cr.

Total Credits Required 18 cr.

Final Project

In order to graduate from the Honors College with the designation of University Honors or Distinction in University Honors, a student must complete a final project. The final project is normally done during the senior year and may be undertaken only if the student meets the eligibility requirements for graduation from the College (3.5 minimum GPA and the required courses). The final project carries 3 graded credit hours.

Before beginning the final project, the student must choose a faculty advisor and file with the College a proposal that is approved by the faculty advisor and the Director of the Honors College. The final project is graded by the faculty advisor, who submits a final grade to the Director of the Honors College.

Candidates for graduation with University Honors and Distinction in University Honors are expected to make public presentations of their final projects at one or more of the following: (1) the Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium, (2) a department seminar, (3) and/or a seminar sponsored by the Honors College. The method of presentation shall be that deemed appropriate for the discipline in which the project is undertaken.

The written component of the final project shall be filed with the Honors College in a bound copy according to the guidelines established by the college.

The final project may be any one of the following:

Thesis — The thesis is an independent scholarly or scientific research project that is undertaken with the advice and direction of a member of the university faculty. The thesis does not need to be on a topic in the student's major field, but must meet the guidelines and protocols of the discipline in which it is written. The faculty advisor, in consultation with the thesis committee, will examine the student's thesis and determine a final grade.

Creative Arts or Performance Project — The Senior Creative Arts/Performance project may take the form of an exhibition, recital, or other venue deemed appropriate by the faculty advisor and the Director of the Honors College. In addition to the performance or exhibition, the student must complete a written report or description of the project that is approved by the faculty advisor, to be filed with the Honors College.

Service Learning Project — The Service Learning Project shall be undertaken under the auspices and supervision of an agency approved by the Director of the Honors College. A faculty advisor must approve the project and monitor its progress. The Service Learning Project must be more than simply a certain number of hours volunteered to an agency. It must also involve a creative and leadership element, such as the design of a program or policy that identifies a problem and meets a specific need of the agency. A time log and journal shall be kept by the student during the course of the project. A written report describing the objective and design of the project, as well as an evaluation of its successes and failures, must be submitted to the Honors College according to norms established by the college. The report must also contain a reflective component, demonstrating increased self-awareness and personal growth.

At the completion of the final project, the student will be required to do an exit interview with the faculty advisor and/or Director of the Honors College. Such interviews will be used in the formal assessment process.

Community Service Options

The Honors College encourages its students to perform volunteer public service. Under certain circumstances, public service may be used as an alternative to completing some of the requirements for graduation from the Honors College. The following guidelines apply:

During the sophomore, junior, or senior year, a student with at least a 3.5 GPA may undertake community service with an agency or organization in Doña Ana County (or an agency outside the area approved by the Honors College Director) to earn a waiver of up to 3 of the hours required for University Honors (not including the Final Project). A minimum of 15 hours of community service per week, per semester is required for each honors credit hour to be waived. Community service hours must be verified by a supervisor of the agency or organization on a form approved by the Honors College. On-campus activities are not included under this option. The student must also certify that the community service hours are not being used for any course or degree requirement. Approval of the Director of the Honors College must be obtained prior to beginning volunteer service to be eligible for this option.

International Study Option

Students in the Honors College are strongly encouraged to participate in international study. An NMSU honors student with at least a 3.5 GPA may earn

a waiver of up to 3 credit hours required for University Honors for such international study (not including the Final Project). This waiver will be awarded for college credit earned while participating in any international study program approved by the Honors College or the Office of International Study. One honors hour will be waived for each 3 semester credit hours earned with a grade of 'A', 'B', or 'S'. Permission to use this option must be approved in advance by the Honors College.

Note: Waiver of university honors credit for service learning or international study does not reduce or affect in any way the total number of hours required for graduation. Waiver of honors credit for service learning or international study cannot be applied toward the final project requirement.

Honors Certificate Program

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 are eligible for the Honors Certificate Program. A student who completes at least two 300- or 400-level honors seminars will be given a Certificate of Distinction at graduation and special recognition in the commencement program. See the honors director for details on available seminars, Honors College, Conroy Honors Center.

Crimson Scholars Program

The Crimson Scholars Program is a benefits and recognition program for academically superior students taking seven or more credits per semester. Crimson Scholars receive a number of benefits, including:

- Automatic eligibility for all Honors courses
- Early registration
- Extended library check-out privileges
- Special advising
- Notation on college transcript
- Recognition in the commencement program (to students who have maintained Crimson Scholars status for four semesters)
- A lapel pin to students who have maintained Crimson Scholars status for three semesters)

To be eligible for the Crimson Scholars Program, applicants must be degree seeking.

- Entering freshmen must have either: a minimum ACT standard composite score of 26; *or* a minimum ACT standard composite score of 24 *and* a 3.75 or better high school GPA; *or* a minimum SAT score of 1170.
- Currently enrolled students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 for 12 or more credits* at NMSU.
- Transfer students must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA for 12 or more credits* from their previous institution(s) or complete 12 or more credits at NMSU for eligibility.

* does not include I or audit course designations at NMSU

To maintain Crimson Scholar status:

- Freshmen entering on an ACT score must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3 and complete seven or more credits per semester to continue in the program until they complete 28 credits*.
- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 and be currently enrolled in a total of 7 or more credits* per semester at NMSU or any NMSU community college to retain their Crimson Scholars status.
- Students who have exercised the adjusted credit option must have completed at least 35 computable hours from the last semester they exercised the adjusted credit option with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above.
- Students designated as Crimson Scholars whose cumulative GPA's drop
- Students designated as Crimson Scholars who maintain their eligibility do not need to reapply every semester. However, Crimson Scholars whose GPA drops below the required cumulative 3.5 or drop below the seven credit minimum will be dropped from the program. If in the following semester, the student's cumulative GPA and credits again meet the minimum requirement, the student will *automatically* be reinstated. If dropped from the program for two consecutive semesters, the student must reapply to the program once he/she qualifies.

* does not include I or audit course designations at NMSU

In recognition of the student's academic achievement, a statement designating Crimson Scholar is placed on the student's transcript. To be designated in the commencement program as a Crimson Scholar graduate, a student must complete a minimum of four semesters (semesters need not be consecutive) in the program and must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. Students who complete two semesters as Crimson Scholars and are eligible for a third semester receive a lapel pin. Crimson Scholars are entitled to early registration

and library privileges. Additional information is available from the Crimson/Centennial Scholars Office, located in the Conroy Honors Center.

NOTE: Crimson Scholars interested in work-study positions must submit a yearly Free Application for Federal Student Aid and complete a financial aid file with the NMSU Office of Financial Aid.

Centennial Scholars Program

Centennial Scholars receive the same benefits and recognition as Crimson Scholars. Applicants to the Centennial Scholars Program must meet specific eligibility criteria. Applicants must:

- be attending the main campus, Doña Ana, Alamogordo, Carlsbad or Grants NMSU community college campuses
- be enrolled as part-time students carrying no more than six credits* per semester
- be degree-seeking
- have a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- have accumulated a minimum of 15 credits at NMSU or any of the NMSU community college campuses.

Currently enrolled Centennial Scholars who maintain their eligibility do not need to reapply every semester. However, Centennial Scholars who receive an incomplete grade ("I" grade), will be dropped from the program. Once the "I" grade has been replaced, please contact the Crimson Scholars Office. Centennial Scholars who take more than the six credit maximum will be dropped from the program. If the student's credits again meet minimum requirements the following semester, the student will *automatically* be reinstated. If a student is dropped from the program for academic reasons (<3.5 cumulative GPA), nine hours must be completed with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better before the student can be reinstated. If the student is dropped from the program for two consecutive semesters, the student must reapply.

*does not include I or audit course designations

Students who have exercised the adjusted credit option must have completed at least 24 computable hours from the last semester they exercised the adjusted credit option with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above.

In recognition of the student's academic achievement, a statement designating Centennial Scholar is placed on the student's transcript. Students who complete 21 credits will receive a lapel pin. Recognition in the commencement program will occur once the student has completed six semesters as a Centennial Scholar. Additional information is available from the Crimson/Centennial Scholars Office, located in the Conroy Honors Center.

Note: Crimson and Centennial Scholars status are not interchangeable. Requirements for a status change are available from the Crimson/Centennial Scholars Office.

The Honors Living and Learning Community (HLLC)

The New Mexico State University Honors Living and Learning Community (HLLC) is an educational initiative that links in-class and out-of-class learning experiences for honors students. The goals of the Honors Living and Learning Community are to: (1) supplement classroom learning experiences with co-curricular programming; (2) foster the development of an honors community that includes honors students, faculty, and staff; and (3) create a supportive environment for honors students. Above all, the Honors Living and Learning Community aims to develop a small-college environment within the context of a large research university, thus giving students the benefits of both. Honors students, especially first-year students, are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity. The Honors Living and Learning Community is comprised of three components:

The Conroy Honors Center — is the academic home of the Honors College. This historic building was designed by the renowned southwestern architect Henry C. Trost and built in 1908 to house the campus chapter of the YMCA. The Conroy Center houses the administrative offices of the program along with three seminar rooms, a student commons area, a kitchen, and a computer lab.

The Honors Residence Hall — is located in Monagle Hall and is the focus of NMSU's vibrant honors community. It is a place where honors students live among a community of excellent students with outstanding academic records and who are interested in getting the most out of the academic opportunities offered to them at a large research institution. It also hosts many social and extracurricular academic activities.

The Honors Residence Hall is equipped with two electronic classrooms, where many introductory honors courses are taught. The honors faculty participate in residence hall programming and frequently attend residence hall floor meetings with students. The Honors Residence Hall is open to both men and women of any university class standing.

The Crimson Scholar Residential Mentors Program — Crimson Scholar Residential Mentors live in the Honors Residence Hall and promote academic success of the entire student body by tutoring and mentoring residence hall students. Mentors also foster a sense of community throughout the Honors Residence Hall by creating personal affiliations, engaging in scholarly conversation, and lending academic support to their peers.